

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Andrea Giovanni Cigada et al.
Application No. : 09/917,406
Filed : July 26, 2001
For : LEAD-FRAME FOR SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES

Examiner : Quang D. Vu
Art Unit : 2811
Docket No. : 853063.493
Date : June 4, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RULE 131 DECLARATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

I, Andrea Giovanni Cigada, residing at Via Volturmo, 80, I-20047 Brugherio, Italy, declare as follows:

I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought for the application identified above.

I was in possession of the invention defined by the claims of the application identified above ("the present application") prior to June 30, 2000. I provided an invention disclosure, disclosing the invention described in the claims of the present application, to the patent department at STMicroelectronics Srl ("ST"), which is the assignee of the present application, prior to June 30, 2000. My understanding is that the invention disclosure was provided to ST's patent agents, Mittler & C., prior to June 30, 2000. Mr. Fabio Ciceri of Mittler & C. diligently prepared a draft of a patent application directed to the invention and sent the draft to me on June 5, 2000 (See attached copies of the June 5, 2000 letter and draft application with English translations). I diligently reviewed the draft application and worked with Mr. Ciceri, who filed Italian patent application MI2000A 001719 on July 27, 2000 directed the subject matter of the invention disclosure. My understanding is that the present application claims priority based on that Italian application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

16/6/2003

Date

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